

B. REMARKS

No claims have been canceled or added in this reply. Hence, Claims 1, 4-6, 8-13, 16-18, 20-24, 28, 31-33, 35-38 and 42 are pending in this application. The amendments to the claims do not add any new matter to this application. Furthermore, the amendments to the claims were made to improve the readability and clarity of the claims and not for any reason related to patentability. All issues raised in the Office Action mailed February 27, 2006 are fully addressed hereinafter. The Examiner is thanked for the telephone interview conducted with the undersigned on June 1, 2006.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1, 4-6, 8-13, 16-18, 20-24, 28, 31-33, 35-38 AND 42 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 1, 4-6, 8-13, 16-18, 20-24, 28, 31-33, 35-38 and 42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by *Chislenko*, U.S. Patent No. 6,041,311. It is respectfully submitted that Claims 1, 4-6, 8-13, 16-18, 20-24, 28, 31-33, 35-38 and 42 are patentable over *Chislenko* for at least the reasons provided hereinafter.

CLAIM 1

Claim 1 is directed to a computer-implemented method for estimating how a user would rate an item that the user has not yet rated that recites:

“in a computer system identifying one or more items that have been rated favorably by the user and that have ratings that satisfy a minimum rating threshold;
in the computer system identifying one or more other users that have rated the one or more items and given ratings to the one or more items that are substantially similar to ratings given by the user to the one or more items; and
in the computer system estimating how the user would rate the item that the user has not yet rated by determining a similarity between the one or more other items and the item that the user has not yet rated by comparing the ratings given by the one or more other users to the one or more items to ratings given by the one or more other users to the item that the user has not yet rated.”

It is respectfully submitted that Claim 1 is patentable over *Chislenko* on the basis that at least the limitations recited in the third step of Claim 1, i.e., “estimating how the user would rate the item that the user has not yet rated by determining a similarity between the one or more other items and the item that the user has not yet rated by comparing the ratings given by the one or

more other users to the one or more items to ratings given by the one or more other users to the item that the user has not yet rated” are not taught or suggested by *Chislenko*. Referring to Section 7 “Item Recommendation” of the specification starting on Page 24, and FIG. 7, an estimation is made how user 702 would rate item 716 (the item that the user has not yet rated) by determining a similarity between items 708, 710 (the one or more items) and item 716 (the item that the user has not yet rated). This determination is made by comparing the ratings made by user 704 (the one or more other users) for items 708, 710 (the one or more items) to ratings made by user 704 (the one or more other users) for item 716 (the item that the user has not yet rated). Thus, once user 704 has been identified in the second step of Claim 1 as “the one or more other users,” the estimation of how user 702 would rate item 716 (the item that the user has not yet rated) is made not just based upon how user 704 (the one or more other users) rated item 716 (the item that the user has not yet rated) as is done in conventional approaches. Rather, in Claim 1, the ratings made by user 704 (the one or more other users) for items 708, 710 (the one or more items) are compared to the ratings made by user 704 (the one or more other users) for item 716 (the item that the user has not yet rated).

It is respectfully submitted that the third step of Claim 1 is not taught or suggested by *Chislenko*. In *Chislenko*, ratings given to items by a user are first correlated to ratings given to the items by other users to select a set of neighboring users. See, e.g., Col. 2, lines 20-26. Once the set of neighboring users has been selected, ratings made by the neighboring users for just the item to be recommended are then used to predict how the user would rate the item. There is no teaching or suggestion in *Chislenko* of predicting how the user would rate the item by determining a similarity between the items used to select the neighboring users and the item to be recommended. Furthermore, *Chislenko* does not teach or suggest determining this similarity by comparing the ratings made by the neighboring users for the items used to select the neighboring users to the ratings made by the neighboring users for the item to be recommended. Rather, only the ratings made by the neighboring users for the item to be recommended are considered to predict how the user would rate the item.

For purposes of explanation, presuming that the neighboring users of *Chislenko* are the user 704 (the one or more other users) of FIG. 7 of the present application, *Chislenko* teaches using only the ratings made by user 704 (the one or more other users) for item 716 (the item that the user has not yet rated) to estimate how user 702 would rate item 716 (the item that the user

has not yet rated). *Chislenko* does not teach or suggest determining a similarity between items 708, 710 (the one or more items) and item 716 (the item that the user has not yet rated). Further, *Chislenko* does not teach or suggest determining this similarity by comparing the ratings made by user 704 (the one or more other users) for items 708, 710 (the one or more items) to the ratings made by user 704 (the one or more other users) for item 716 (the item that the user has not yet rated) in estimating how user 702 would rate item 716 (the item that the user has not yet rated). It is therefore respectfully submitted that at least the third step of Claim 1 is not taught or suggested by *Chislenko*.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 1 recites one or more limitations that are not taught or suggested by *Chislenko* and that Claim 1 is therefore patentable over *Chislenko*.

CLAIMS 4-6 AND 8-12

Claims 4-6 and 8-12 all depend from Claim 1 and include all of the limitations of Claim 1. It is therefore respectfully submitted that Claims 4-6 and 8-12 are patentable over *Chislenko* for at least the reasons set forth herein with respect to Claim 1. Furthermore, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 4-6 and 8-12 recite additional limitations that independently render them patentable over *Chislenko*.

CLAIMS 13, 16-18 AND 20-24

Claims 13, 16-18 and 20-24 recite limitations similar to Claims 1, 4-6 and 8-12, except in the context of computer-readable media. It is therefore respectfully submitted that Claims 13, 16-18 and 20-24 are patentable over *Chislenko* for at least the reasons set forth herein with respect to Claims 1, 4-6 and 8-12.

CLAIMS 28, 31-33, 35-38 AND 42

Claims 28, 31-33, 35-38 and 42 recite limitations similar to Claims 1, 4-6 and 8-12, except in the context of apparatuses. It is therefore respectfully submitted that Claims 28, 31-33, 35-38 and 42 are patentable over *Chislenko* for at least the reasons set forth herein with respect to Claims 1, 4-6 and 8-12.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 1, 4-6, 8-13, 16-18, 20-24, 28, 31-33, 35-38 and 42 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by *Chislenko* is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance and the issuance of a notice of allowance is respectfully requested. If there are any additional charges, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 50-1302.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if the Examiner believes that such contact would be helpful in furthering the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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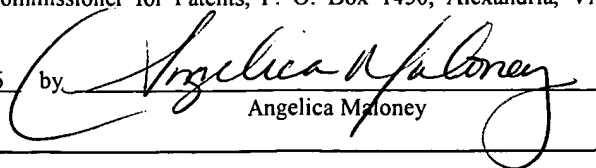
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On June 1, 2006 by


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